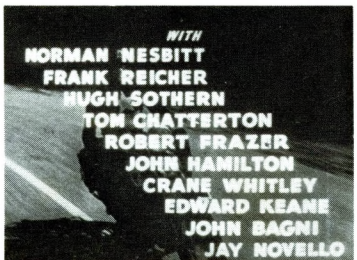

A MONSTROUS CRIME WAVE... BATTLED BY A MASKED HERO!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

A REPUBLIC SERIAL IN 15 CHAPTERS

CLIFFHANGER ENDING

and ESCAPE PICTORIAL

CAST

FEATURING

Captain America / Grant Gardner ..... Dick Purcell
Gail Richards ..... Lorna Gray
Dr. Cyrus Maldor ..... Lionel Atwill
Commissioner Dryden .. Charles Trowbridge
Mayor Randolph ..... Russell Hicks
Gruber ..... John Davidson
Bart Matson ..... George Lewis

WITH

Newscaster ..... Norman Nesbitt
Professor Lyman ..... Frank Reicher
Professor Dodge ..... Hugh Sothern
J. C. Henley ..... Tom Chatterton
Dr. Clinton Lyman ..... Robert Frazer
G. F. Hillman ..... John Hamilton
Dirk ..... Crane Whitley
Dr. Rodlam Baracs ..... Edward Keane
Monk ..... John Bagni
Simms ..... Jay Novello

AND

J. V. Wilson ..... James Carlisle
Kent ..... Tom Steele
Walt Davis ..... George Byron
Florist Salesman ..... Brooks Benedict
Florist Proprietor ..... Sam Ash
Bates ..... LeRoy Mason
Carson ..... Stanley Price
Gregory ..... Edward Van Sloan
Eddie ..... Jerry Jerome
Merritt ..... Charles Hutchinson
Lab Heavy 1, Road Heavy, Hunt .. Ken Terrell
Lab Heavy 2, Electronics Heavy. John Daheim
Tait ..... Ralf Harolde
Clancy ..... George Sherwood
Joe, Norton, Gordon ..... Gil Perkins
Nick ..... Roy Brent
Police Broadcaster ..... Terry Frost
Motorcycle Officer, Rick ..... Dale Van Sickel
Platinum Heavy, Barton ..... Duke Green
Carter ..... Howard Hickman
Motorcycle Cop ..... Hal Craig
Police Mechanic ..... Harry Strang
Burton, Blain, Mead ..... Fred Graham
Garage Heavy ..... Robert Wilke
Expressman 1 ..... Jack Kirk
Expressman 2 ..... Jack O'Shea
Estate Guard 1, Donovan ..... Ben Taggart
Estate Guard 2 ..... Frank O'Connor
Gas Station Proprietor ..... Lorn Courdaye
Lewis, Burns ..... Joe Yrigoyen
Walters, Walker ..... Allen Pomeroy
Car Lot Manager ..... Ben Erway
Mac ..... Tom London
Tec-Ni-Gas Guard ..... Ed Cassidy
Stark, Perry ..... Bert Le Baron
Airplane Mechanic ..... Lynton Brent
Agent 31, Booth ..... Paul Marion
Jarvis ..... Wilson Benge
Morgue Truck Driver ..... Glenn Knight
Hines ..... Robert Strange
Pete ..... George DeNormand
Kane ..... Bud Geary
Ed Graham ..... Kenne Duncan
Also: Helen Thurston.

FILE NOTES

Republic Serial No. 32—in 15 chapters.
Production No. 1297

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Passed by the National Board of Review

Filming started ..... October 12, 1943
Filming ended ..... November 24, 1943
Total days to film 44
National Release Date ..... February 5, 1944
16mm footage [live] ..... 8,763 feet
Total running time 243:28
Chapter editing completed dates .. [1943-44]
1 [12- 7], 2 [12-15], 3 [12-24], 4 [12-29], 5 [1- 3], 6 [1-11], 7 [1-19], 8 [1-25], 9 [1-31], 10 [2- 9], 11 [2-16], 12 [2-23], 13 [3- 1], 14 [3- 8], 15 [3-14].
MPPDA Approved Certificates ... 9671-9685
Music credited to ..... Mort Glickman
Compositions used, by: Mort Glickman [17], Marlin Skiles [5], Walter Scharf [1].

CAPTAIN AMERICA

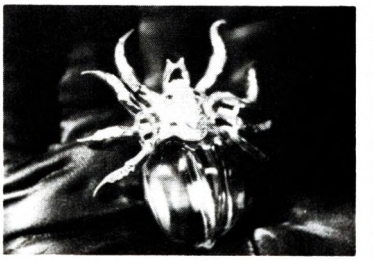
A CRAZED MADMAN IS BENT ON REVENGE... FOUGHT HEROICALLY BY THE COURAGE OF A MYSTERY AVENGER!

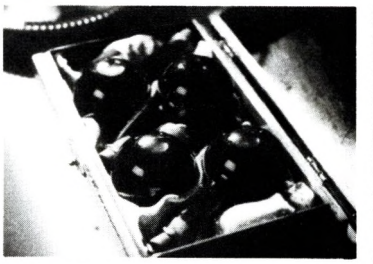
By the very fact that an adaptation of a fictional character from one medium to another usually leaves certain aspects open to thought, CAPTAIN AMERICA particularly lends itself to conjecture. Suppose, for example, at a point in history when chapterplays with a wartime motif were in vogue, the Republic writers had more closely aligned their screenplay with the initial concept of Simon and Kirby's creation. According to this origin, Steve Rogers, declared unfit for military service because of his puny condition, willingly allows himself to be inoculated with Professor Reinstein's untried serum that magically and instantaneously increases his strength and intelligence to an amazing degree. Reinstein names his first protege "Captain America" but his secret formula dies with him when a Gestapo agent, who has infiltrated a group of F. B. I. men witnessing the demonstration, opens fire, killing everyone but Rogers. Becoming an Army private, Rogers secretly dons the Captain America guise to battle spies and saboteurs, aided by the young Camp Lehigh mascot, Bucky Barnes, as his sidekick.

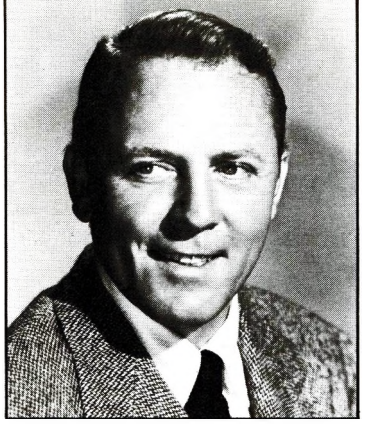
The Republic film version, by complete contrast, professes Captain America's other self to be Grant Gardner, a crusading District Attorney possessing brains and brawn only somewhat above average. The plot, about as far removed from a war theme as possible, revolves around the vengeful tactics of Dr. Cyrus Maldor—known to his victims as the Scarab—against fellow members of a South American archeological expedition to reclaim the wealth and fame he considers to be his. Essentially, then, the only thing carried over from paper to celluloid was the flamboyant costume. While some diehard critics may fault even this for lacking the cowl wings, mailed shirt, pirate boots and shield, it was, nevertheless, a rather faithful and certainly more functional outfit for the live visual medium. Substituting for star Dick Purcell in the uniform during the frequent action intervals was Dale Van Sickel, who led a distinguished stunt team at a breakneck pace over a fight-crammed, fifteen-episode obstacle course.

The special effects, supervised by Theodore Lydecker, included a batch of new exploding miniatures plus a host of life-size dummies that provided what must be some sort of record for film deaths from defenestration. By actual body count, four people plummeted to their fate from a window, not to mention a pair of high falls taken by Captain America and one by Matson. Since the majority of scenes were staged within the Republic lot and indoors, Art Director Fred Ritter and Set Decorator Charles Thompson kept the roving eye alert with a large assortment of the expected massive, fastidiously detailed sets. The relatively sparse exterior footage was shot at a private estate in Pasadena [Lyman residence], the Beverly Hills Women's Club [Drummond Museum], the Los Novas Apartments in Hollywood [Grant Gardner's apartment], the Republic garage [Central Airport and 10th Street Garage], as well as Mulholland Drive, the Van Nuys Police Station and Chatsworth.

Production Notes . . . a costuming footnote to Chapter Twelve found a mask figuring prominently in that episode to be the same one that, years earlier, had concealed the identity of Zorro . . . CAPTAIN AMERICA was the serial swan song for directors John English and Elmer Clifton. English amassed 19 chapterplay credits over a period of seven years at Republic while Clifton directed four titles at various studios . . . first unit assistant directors were George Webster and Cliff Reid . . . the second unit assistant director was Harry Knight . . . Howard Bretherton,

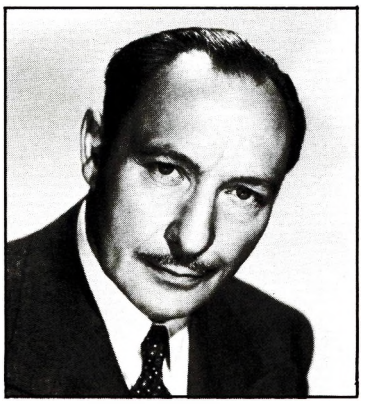




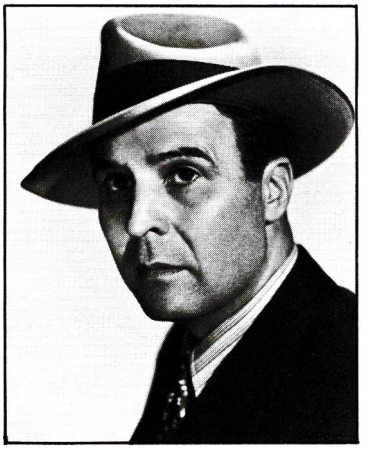


GRANT GARDNER

GAIL RICHARDS



DR. CYRUS MALDOR



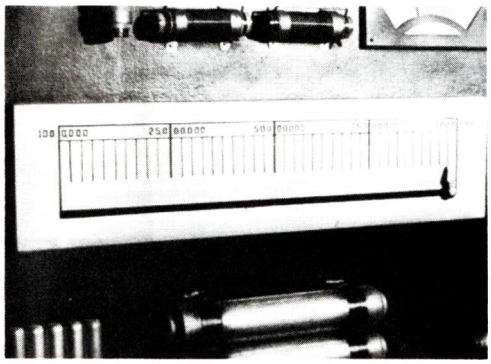
BART MATSON

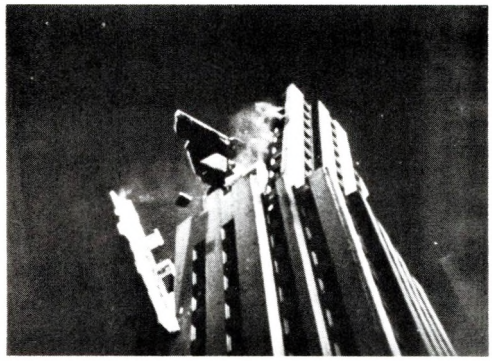
while he received no credit, was responsible for directing the cliffhanger ending for Chapter One . . . stock footage included a car going over a cliff in Chapter One and destruction of the boiler room in Chapter Seven, both lifted from G-MEN VS. THE BLACK DRAGON, the building collapse in Chapter One borrowed from a destruction montage, and the chase and resultant car crash at the climax of Chapter Twelve taken from DICK TRACY VS. CRIME, INC. . . . Mort Glickman composed the main title theme as well as 16 other pieces and was assisted by Marlin Skiles, who wrote five, and Walter Scharf, with one . . . since production occurred late in the year, the first three episodes were copyrighted in 1943 and the remainder in 1944 . . . retitled RETURN OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, the serial was re-released theatrically on September 30, 1953 . . . a sad postscript was the death of Dick Purcell on April 11, 1944, less than five months after shooting was completed. Lionel Atwill succumbed on April 22, 1946, while working in another serial, Universal's LOST CITY OF THE JUNGLE . . . this was the last in a vanishing breed of comic strip heroes to be transferred to the screen by Republic.

1—THE PURPLE DEATH 25:40

A hypnotic voice, identifying itself as the Scarab, commands the suicide of J. V. Wilson, Carl Evans and Harold Jackson, three men connected with a scientific expedition into the Mayan ruins of Central America. A subtle poison is found in each victim's bloodstream and the unsolved deaths, called the "Purple Death Murders" by the press, bring an angry Mayor Randolph to Police Commissioner Dryden's office for a meeting with District Attorney Grant Gardner. The Mayor feels that Captain America would be their salvation and Grant, who is secretly Captain America, allows that the latest crime wave should bring him out of hiding. Meanwhile, at the Drummond Museum, Dr. Cyrus Maldor, the curator, and Professor Lyman are discussing their colleagues' demise. Maldor offers a cigar to the agitated inventor, then reveals himself as the deranged, power-hungry Scarab when the Purple Death fumes in the cigar overcome Lyman's will to resist. The Professor, after writing down the combination of his safe containing his thermo-dynamic vibration engine plans, is led to his fatal end by Gruber, Maldor's lieutenant. Sent to obtain Lyman's plans, Bart Matson, Maldor's henchman, and Kent are surprised by Captain America. Matson flees as Kent is mortally wounded in a close-quarter struggle for a gun with Captain America, who calls Gail Richards, the District Attorney's secretary and the only other person knowing his alter ego, with news that he has confiscated a box of Purple Death bombs. When Walt Davis, Grant's assistant, analyzes the bomb contents as a distillate of the rare orchid Cypridium, Grant and Gail start on a tedious check of local floral shops. After visiting two dealers, Gail locates the Purple Death source at the Tropics Florist Shop, but is held captive by Bates and Carson until Grant rescues her after a brief back-room skirmish, negating the Purple Death secret in the process. Maldor, learning that Lyman's assistant, Gregory, is to hold a working-model demonstration of the Dynamic Vibrator for the District Attorney that night, sends Matson to destroy the machine, fearing that a counteracting unit may be built, rendering his plans useless. Eddie, who at gunpoint has arranged a sham meeting with Grant to keep him from the demonstration, is killed by Simms as Captain America approaches the rendezvous. Captain America tricks Simms into believing he has also been shot, then gains the upper hand and Simms blurts out the dirty work afoot at the Dodge Building. Gregory has just concluded a lecture on the destructive potential of the Vibrator for Gail, Merritt and Norden when Matson and two lab heavies appear. Appropriating Professor Dodge's papers, Matson locks the foursome in a vault and leaves after instructing his confederates to step up the Vibrator's power to a self-destructive one-hundred-million volts. The device begins to whine as Captain America, entering the laboratory, is rushed by the heavies. Heavy 2 falls to his death from a window and Heavy 1 is knocked out as Captain America responds to the pounding from the vault. The prisoners released, Captain America tries to shut down the apparatus but the ceiling collapses and the entire skyscraper crumbles to the ground.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



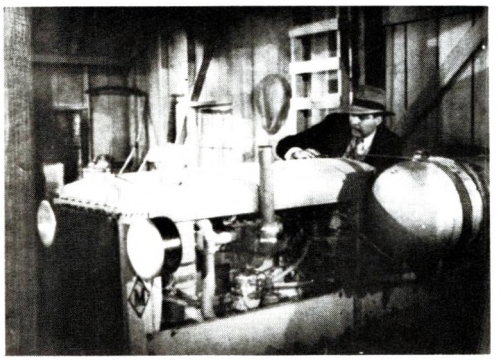


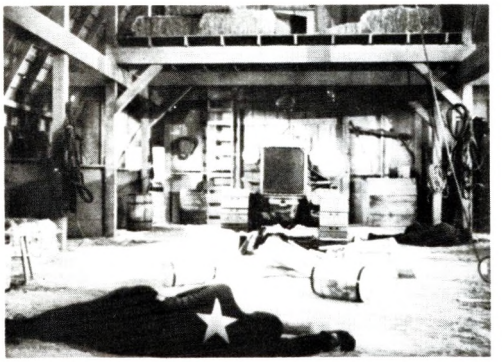
2—MECHANICAL EXECUTIONER 15:38

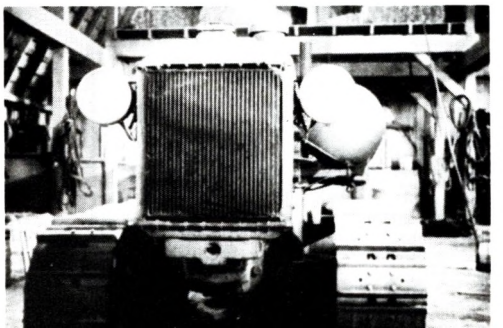
THE ESCAPE

Unable to stop the Vibrator, Captain America vaults through a window onto a neighboring rooftop as the building disintegrates. The papers stolen by Matson contain the coded plans for Professor Dodge's Electronic Fire-Bolt, a machine capable of generating an electrical charge powerful enough to cut through steel and concrete like a lightning bolt. Unable to decode the plans, Maldor awaits Gail at the County Building and pricks her hand with a drug-tipped needle concealed in his ring. Under the effects of a temporary hypnotic serum, Gail volunteers that Dodge is under guard at the District Attorney's apartment. Maldor gives the girl instructions to call Clancy, the patrolman on duty, with word that detectives are on the way to question the Professor. When Grant later enters his apartment he is caught unawares by Tait, who takes the D. A.'s gun, fires once and places the pistol in Grant's hand, giving the impression of suicide. Tait completes a call to Joe, reporting the "successful" murder, when the "corpse" rises to explain that the first bullet in his gun is always a blank to be fired as a warning. Tait is killed in an exchange of shots and Grant, after releasing Clancy from a closet, has the phone number traced to the Watson Feed Barn on Glenmore Road. At the barn, Matson and Joe give Professor Dodge a demonstration of the fate awaiting him should he continue his refusal to decipher the plans. A steel-treaded tractor is set in motion toward Dodge, who struggles frantically at the ropes binding him to a chair while Matson casually watches the lumbering machine crush boxes and barrels placed in its path. Dodge gives in and divulges the code key word "davenports" as Grant drives up, strips off his street clothes revealing the Captain America costume and climbs to the hay loft. Matson and Joe are felled as they leave when Captain America swings down on a rope. Joe is killed during the fight when he is swung into the path of a pitchfork hurled by Matson. Dodge moves his chair to a gun lying on a hay bale as Matson throws a block of wood, knocking out Captain America. After setting the tractor in motion, Matson hurriedly leaves the barn amidst a hail of bullets. Professor Dodge watches helplessly as the juggernaut rumbles on toward Captain America's unconscious form.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





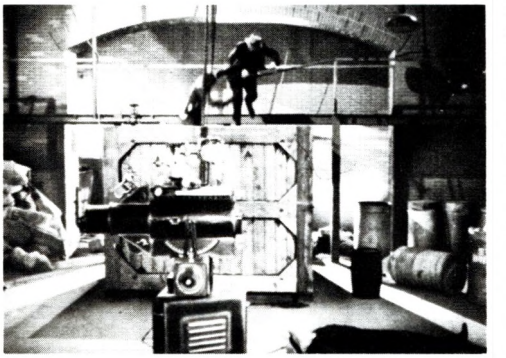


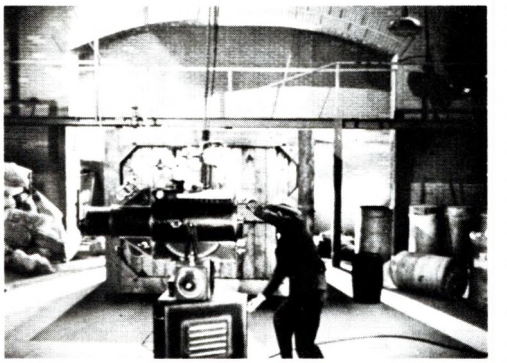
3—SCARLET SHROUD 15:33

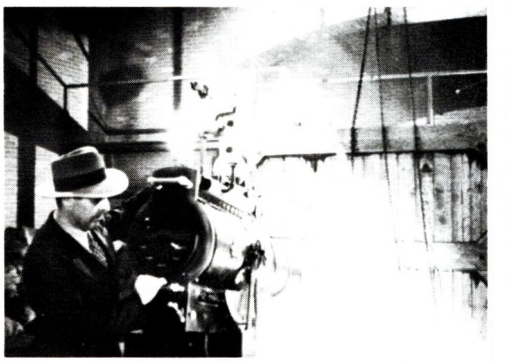
THE ESCAPE

Regaining his senses, Captain America rolls away from the tractor treads and unties Professor Dodge, who informs him that the Scarab will now be able to construct the Electronic Fire-Bolt. The city is soon caught in a wave of million-dollar art and antique thefts but, as Matson gloats over their successes, Maldor reminds him not to underestimate the District Attorney and sends him on a spying mission. Matson taps Grant's phone line and hears Dodge's report that his Fire-Bolt Locator is ready for transporting to the Munson Laboratories to be fitted with the critical thyrotron tubes. Grant picks up the unit and leaves the apartment as from a window Gail notices Nick tampering with Grant's car. She rushes downstairs to warn Grant but he has already driven away. Nick pulls a gun but Gail gets off the first shot and races to overtake her boss. Grant, noticing in the rear view mirror a car following him, radios the Highway Patrol and Gail is quickly intercepted by a motorcycle officer. She identifies herself and Grant, radioed to check his vehicle for trouble, sees the temperature gauge creeping toward maximum. He snatches the Locator and jumps out as the car sails off a cliff and explodes in midair. Gail drives up and she and Grant continue on to the laboratory to have the detection unit completed. A phony story planted in the newspapers that the District Attorney was injured and the Locator destroyed satisfies Maldor, who plots his next move against the National Platinum Company. That night, when Dodge's Locator indicates that the Fire-Bolt is in use, Grant leaves after the Professor ascertains the area of operation with an electronic map. Matson and a platinum company heavy are busily hauling boxes of the valuable metal through the burned-out vault door when Captain America intervenes. He momentarily watches their activities from a second-floor balcony, then leaps down on Matson as the heavy returns to join in the brawl. Captain America, after knocking out Matson, chases the heavy up the stairs to a balcony where they crash through the railing into a huge wooden refining vat. Hearing the noise, Matson whips the Fire-Bolt around and snaps it on in the direction of the box. Captain America and the heavy are locked in combat inside as the vat is consumed by fire.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





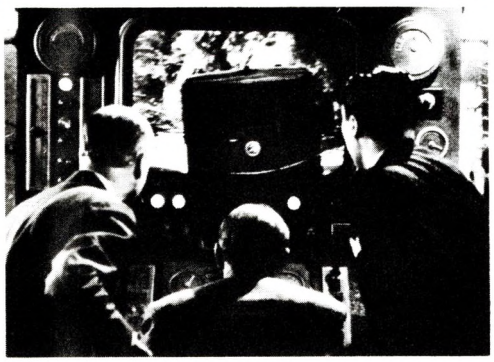


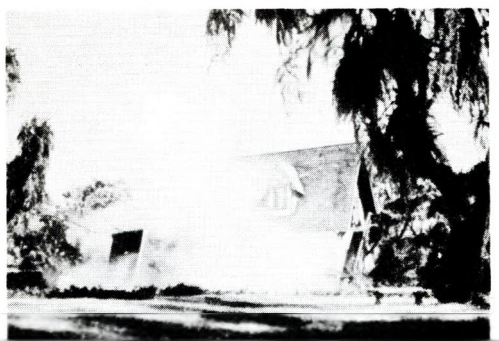
4—PREVIEW OF MURDER 15:33

THE ESCAPE

With the heavy down and out in the smoke-filled vat, Captain America shoots the tie bolts holding the end wall in place, throws his weight against it and falls to the floor along with the wooden section. He chases Matson outside, who is forced to escape in a car rather than the Scarab's Robot Control truck in which he arrived. At the Drummond Museum, Gruber keeps a vigilant eye on the police guard surrounding the truck over the remote control television unit while Maldor accepts a phone call from Grant Gardner telling him to be present the next day for the reading of Professor Lyman's will. Maldor is incensed when he hears Carter, an attorney, voice the bequeathal of the priceless Mayan Crown Jewels to Professor Dodge and he plans to correct this mistake after tending to recovery of his Robot Control vehicle. Unaware they are being watched, Grant dismisses the motorcycle patrolmen after listening to a police mechanic's theory of how the truck operates and hides in the back to await developments. While Gruber steers the driverless machine with the television device toward the 10th Street Garage, Matson phones Burton to capture the District Attorney alive. Grant is apprehended by Burton and a garage heavy who tie him up and proceed to load the Robot truck with high explosives. Maldor's idea is to gain the jewels by default after crashing the vehicle into Lyman's house thus killing Dodge, who is residing at the estate. Grant feverishly saws thru the ropes binding his hands, using the rough edge of a can, and shoots it out with his captors as the truck pulls away. Burton and his partner are eventually killed and Grant, eyeing a motorcycle, changes to his costume and roars off in pursuit of the traveling bomb. He flies across mountain trails, dismounts from the two-wheeler and leaps from a cliff onto the roof of the speeding truck. Maldor executes a series of swerving maneuvers attempting to shake Captain America off but he manages to work his way onto the running board and then inside the cab. Finding the steering wheel locked, Captain America smashes the receiving unit with a pair of pliers as the truck careens up the Lyman driveway. He is able to divert the vehicle away from the house but it travels headlong into the garage and explodes in a blinding flash.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



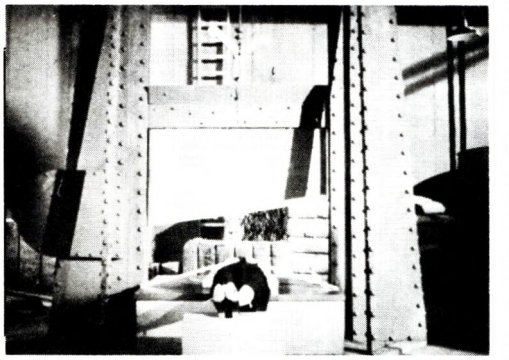


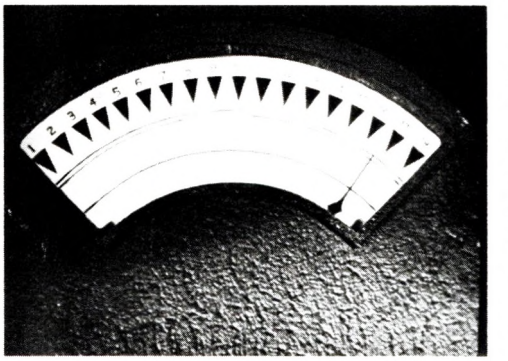
5—BLADE OF WRATH 15:33

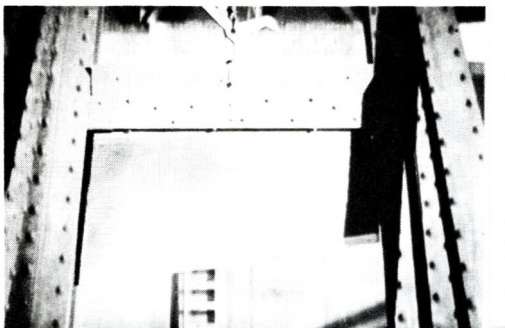
THE ESCAPE

Captain America jumps out of the truck, escaping the thundering explosion by a split second. Maldor receives a call from the nervous Professor Dodge, who has decided to join a South American expedition to escape the Scarab's clutches. When he requests that the curator bring him the Mayan jewels, Maldor sees a way to secure the precious gems for himself. The next day, Dodge signs a receipt for Maldor in Grant's presence and the two men leave as Matson sneaks in through the French windows, knifes the Professor and steals the jewels. Grant bids good-by to Maldor and, after checking their credentials, ushers two expressmen sent for Dodge's baggage into the house. Matson hides in one of the trunks aboard the truck, driving past two guards before Grant re-enters the mansion and finds Dodge's body. He overtakes the expressmen along the highway and a search of their truck reveals the empty trunk used by Matson was shipped by Lefty Harper, a criminal with a long police record, who Commissioner Dryden later reports being found in his car shot through the head, with the only clue being a service station sticker. Gail, sent to check out the lead at Allen's Gas Station, is directed to the nearby Fiber Box Company. There, Lewis claims that Harper had been only a transient worker for the plant and Gail, relaying this information to Grant by phone, is instructed to discreetly slip a pencil into the receiver cradle to keep the line open. Grant continues to listen in and his hunch pays off when Matson enters the building and orders Gail tied up. Knowing that Gail works with Captain America, Matson arranges a demonstration to force the girl to divulge his real identity. The mechanism of a large hydraulic paper cutter is activated and Gail watches terrified as the big blade creeps upward, strikes the tripping point and drops heavily into a bale, slashing it in half. Gail is placed under the guillotine but refuses to talk, forcing Matson to stop the blade just short of decapitating her and call the Scarab for instructions. Finding the open telephone, Matson and Lewis prepare to leave when Captain America arrives. A fight breaks out during which Lewis reels into the cutter starting lever and the heavy knife inches upward, trips and descends with a rush toward the screaming Gail.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





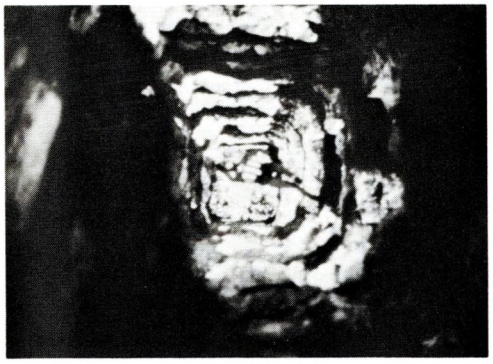


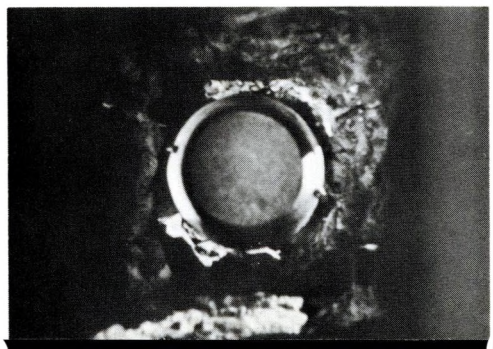
6—VAULT OF VENGEANCE 15:33

THE ESCAPE

Swinging on a ceiling rope, Captain America kicks Lewis over a table, then shuts off the paper cutter a few inches from Gail's neck as Matson makes his getaway. Maldor sends an extortion note to Henley, an oil magnate and member of the Mayan expedition, and, to learn the D. A.'s intentions of combating this latest threat, arranges to decoy Grant away from his apartment so Matson can plant a radio-dictaphone on the premises. Grant is summoned to the Drummond Museum on the pretext of checking an article written by Maldor about the expedition members. His arrival is secretly preannounced by Monk, a shoeshine boy and lookout for the Scarab, who plies his trade in front of the museum with a wireless microphone concealed in a daubing brush. Matson phones Maldor while Grant is en route back to his apartment and they check the dictograph, leaving Matson just time enough to slip out as the D. A. returns. When Gail calls Grant to apprise him of the Henley situation, his curiosity is aroused at the report of his telephone having been busy the previous ten minutes. Gail brings Henley to the apartment and Grant agrees to allow the extortion money to be paid provided Gail is allowed to deliver the money in a brief case containing a radioactive signaling cell. Grant later explains the piece of non-existent gear to Gail as a plot to trap the Scarab since he had discovered the dictograph and knew the enemy was listening. The girl drops the brief case off at a preselected spot along a lonely road and Captain America, after flipping a road heavy to his death from a cliff where he had been spying on Gail's progress, trails Matson into a mine and holds him in abeyance. But Walters moves out of a tunnel and stealthily throws a rock which strikes the rifle Captain America is holding, knocking it from his hands. Walters is put out of action when a hurled pickax clips him on the head and Matson and Captain America continue their battle, edging ever closer to the gaping mouth of a vertical mine shaft. Matson finally topples Captain America over the brink and he collapses in a heap at the base of the deep shaft. Releasing a pawl lever, Matson watches a large ore bucket drop faster and faster down the shaft and Captain America groggily looks up as the bucket comes right at him.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



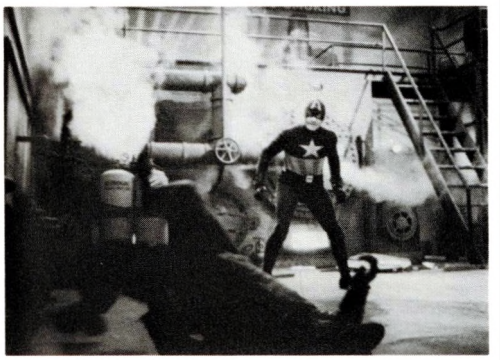


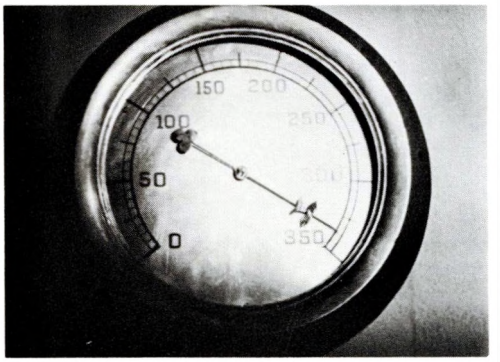
7—WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION 15:34

THE ESCAPE

Captain America rolls safely into a side tunnel as the ore bucket smashes to the shaft floor. He clambers up the cable but Matson has already departed with his ill-gotten gain. Maldor, checking the money, listens to Matson's recount of Captain America's finish when Gruber walks in and unfolds a newspaper revealing the District Attorney has tricked the Scarab by providing banks and businesses with a list of the currency serial numbers. Henley later shows the D. A. another threatening note from the Scarab and Grant decides to keep the oil magnate under guard in his apartment while he checks out a card found on Walters bearing the name of the Mehan Used Car Lot. The manager recalls selling Walters a panel truck requiring exact interior measurements and phones Grant back that night reporting the vehicle was towed to Martin's Garage. At the garage, Matson and Mac finish loading the truck with shellane tanks of Nitrogas while a heavy switches license plates. With the vehicle stenciled to give the appearance of a genuine Henley Tec-Ni-Gas truck, Matson departs in it to pick up his cohort, Barton. Driving to the garage, Grant inquires about the truck and finds himself embroiled in a gun fight when he spots the discarded license plates. Running out of bullets, Grant quickly reloads his revolver and kills Mac, who was about to advance upon him. The heavy is also picked off and Grant, locating the fresh Tec-Ni-Gas stencils in a trash barrel, heads for Henley's plant. Matson, meantime, has slugged a plant guard and with Barton sets to work connecting the shellane tanks into the steam heating system which will carry the unstable Nitrogas to every point in the facility. This accomplished, the boiler fires are turned up full blast and Matson explains that when the pressure reaches 350 pounds the entire plant will blow sky high. As the hoods prepare to leave the boiler room, Captain America makes an appearance and jumps down on them. Matson, knocked to the floor, gives an alarmed look at the steadily rising steam pressure gauge and beats a hasty retreat. Captain America ducks a wrench thrown by Barton, then knocks him out and furiously begins turning the master steam valve wheel. But his action is too late and the building erupts in a series of devastating explosions.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



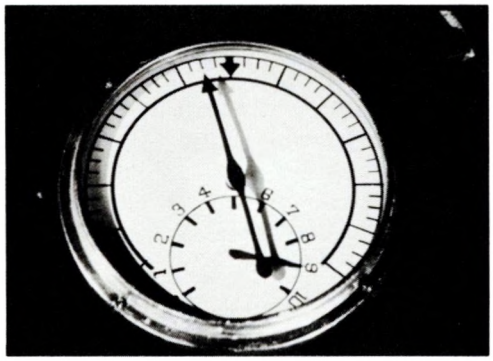


8—CREMATION IN THE CLOUDS 15:33

THE ESCAPE

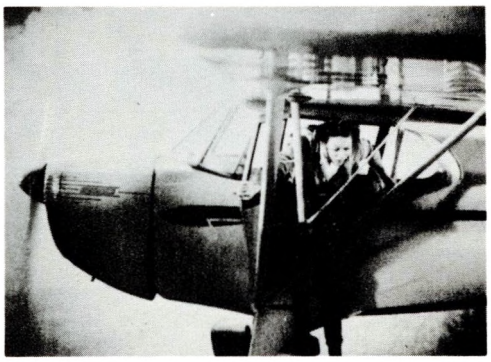
Noticing the steam dial needle moving toward the danger point, Captain America runs from the boiler room before it blows up. Listening to a newscast proclaiming Captain America's fast action in saving all but one of Henley's gas works buildings, Maldor grows increasingly disgruntled and assigns his native Mayan agent, Zula, to finish off the oil man with a Singari blowgun. Zula takes up a position on the roof of the Winston Arms and watches as Grant Gardner enters his apartment building. Henley is irate and demands an end to his confinement so he can attend to business affairs and Grant reluctantly accompanies him outside. Opening the car door, Grant looks up, sees Zula expelling into the blowgun, pushes Henley aside and fires toward the rooftop. Zula topples downward to his death as Grant plucks the poison dart from the car floor and shows Henley this latest reminder of the Scarab's deadly intentions. Grant visits Maldor in hopes that the curator can give him a lead to someone who might own the blowgun but Maldor replies that the only person of any authority on such weapons, Professor Grayson, died several years ago. Cognizant of this fact, Grant says he has wired the Grayson family for assistance and leaves the museum where he pauses to get a shoeshine from Monk. Gail drives up to report that Grayson's grandson, Robert, has offered to identify the blowgun and Grant tells her to take a charter flight to Northridge with the weapon. Monk relays this news to Maldor, who dispatches Blain and Stark to Central Airport where they slug a mechanic and wire a bomb in the aircraft Gail is to use. Grant watches as Gail taxiis down the runway, then walks back toward his car when an oil can tossed by the mechanic crashes through a hangar window and lands at his feet. Peering into the broken pane, Grant sees the bound mechanic motioning toward another part of the building and strips to his Captain America outfit while Gail flies on, ignorant of the time bomb clicking through its revolutions toward the tenth and fatal increment. Blain and Stark, deciding to check on the District Attorney's whereabouts, prepare to leave the workshop when Captain America steps in and starts a fight. The battle rages as the time bomb clock ticks away and the plane blows apart in midair.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



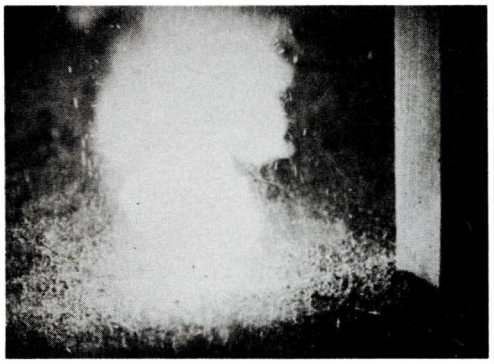
9—TRIPLE TRAGEDY 15:33

THE ESCAPE



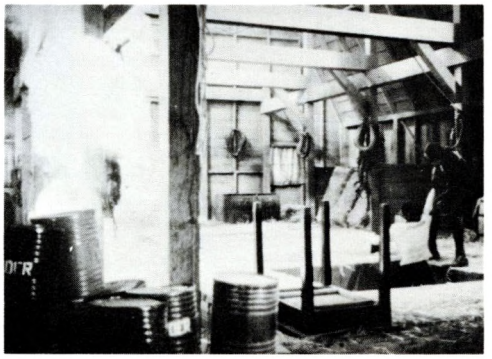
Overcoming his two adversaries, Captain America ungags the mechanic, who tells him about the bomb, and races to a radio, warning Gail, who bails out seconds before the blast. Grant plants an underworld rumor that the D. A.'s office has made a plaster of Paris replica of the blowgun lost in the explosion and Agent 31 relays the story through Monk to Maldor, who directs Matson to locate Robert Grayson. Commissioner Dryden informs Grant that the Scarab's men have fallen for the trap that Grayson is staying in a suite at the Metropole Hotel as Davis completes the blowgun reproduction. Matson and Norton enter the hotel room and insert a gas bomb in the door chime tube which will fall when the doorbell button is depressed twice. They conceal themselves in a hall closet as Grant leaves the elevator and walks into the room. Norton holds the door closed while Matson depresses the chime button, releasing the tube which smashes on the floor, enveloping Grant in a cloud of gas. He dives on to a floor ventilator for a supply of fresh air, knocking over a chair in the process to give the impression that he has fallen unconscious. Hearing clatter from within, Matson presses a handkerchief to his face, makes a fast trip inside for the blowgun, then instructs Norton to finish off the D. A. quietly while he makes his escape. Norton flicks open a switchblade and is about to do in his supposedly-unconscious victim when Grant turns and kicks him in the face. Gail drives away in pursuit of Matson as Grant punches Norton out the fifth-story window and hurries downstairs to check with Donovan, an officer disguised as a doorman. Slipping behind the wheel of Donovan's auto, Grant radios Gail, who has tracked Matson to an old barn. Matson, learning from Maldor that Norton has not checked in, prepares to return to the hotel when Gail enters, holding a gun. Burns trips a lever, plunging the girl through a trap door into a pit. The men start to ignite a powder trail to blow up the barn when Captain America intervenes. During the pitched battle a blowtorch is kicked into the powder and the fire burns furiously toward an explosives cache. Seeing the danger, Matson rushes outside as, with Captain America and Burns flailing one another, the structure explodes with a deafening roar.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



10—THE AVENGING CORPSE 15:33

THE ESCAPE



Burns is struck down after swinging a shovel which trips the trap door release and Captain America pulls Gail from the pit and they run from the barn, escaping the explosion. Worried when he reads a newspaper story publicizing a demonstration of a life-restoring machine by Dr. Clinton Lyman, brother of the late Professor Lyman, Grant phones a warning, but is invited there for the protection of the Mayan expedition members who will be present. To ensure capture of the device should it prove successful, Maldor instructs Matson to commandeer the Humane Society truck which will deliver a dead dog to Lyman's home as a subject for the demonstration. That night, Matson waits in the truck while Rick and Hunt deliver the wicker basket inside, escorted by the butler Jarvis. Lyman injects a serum into the dead animal, clasps two electrodes to its body, starts the machine and, as Grant, Gail, Maldor, and four scientists look on in amazement, the dog comes slowly to life. It bounds from Lyman's arms and runs out a window and Grant runs to fetch it as Rick and Hunt reappear, guns in hand. While Rick covers the group, Hunt carries the machine to the waiting truck. Grant surprises and kills Rick, then drives off in pursuit of Hunt, ordered to get away by Matson. The D. A. is forced to abandon the chase when Hunt destroys a bridge with a hand grenade and, returning to Lyman's, he finds the Doctor has been kidnapped and the rest of the group bound in chairs. Maldor learns that a watchman's key has been found on Rick and sends Matson to take care of things at the Collins Gravel Pits, fearing Gardner will find a clue to the Scarab's identity there. Matson and Perry finish burying a case of dynamite underneath a quarry tool shack and hook up the detonating wires as Gail enters the structure. Captain America interrupts the men but is temporarily blinded when Matson kicks a cloud of dirt in his face. Perry is eventually knocked out and Captain America, chasing Matson to the top of a stone crusher, sends the thug screaming over a railing to the ground below. Perry comes to and exchanges gunfire with Captain America, still atop the crusher housing. A bullet finally finds its mark and Perry staggers momentarily, then keels over on the dynamite plunger, blowing the shack to bits.

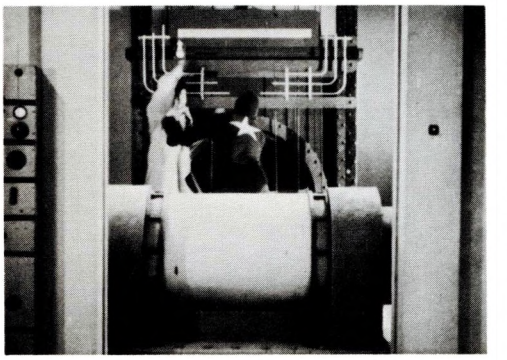
THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

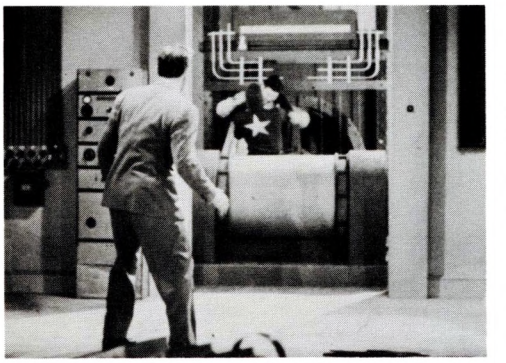
11—THE DEAD MAN RETURNS 15:33

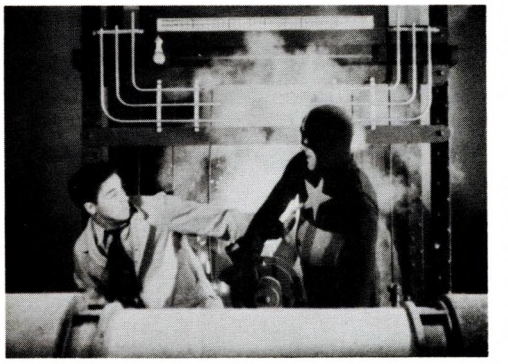
THE ESCAPE

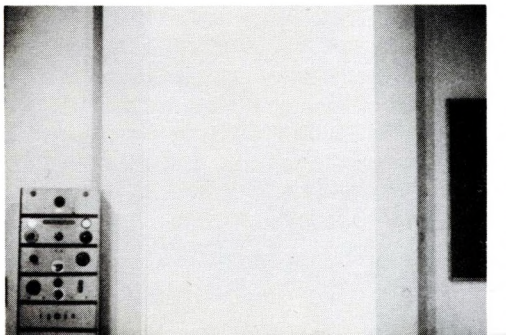
Gail's life is saved when she is attracted outside by the gun shots. After listening to a radio newscast that Matson is on the verge of death at the Home Sanitarium, Maldor tells Gruber that he intends getting his henchman's body before it reaches the morgue and force Doctor Lyman to bring him back to life. When Lyman, held prisoner at the Electronic Researchers Ltd. laboratory, argues that his restoration machine will require one million volts of power to revive a man, Maldor has Dirk and an electronics heavy demonstrate a monstrous, spark-spewing generator that will provide all the necessary energy. Should Lyman refuse to resuscitate Matson, Maldor vows that he will spend his last moments in the deadly generator alcove. Feigning engine trouble with their station wagon, Agent 31 and his assistant waylay the morgue truck, transfer Matson's casket to the wagon and drive off after shooting the driver and attendant. But the driver manages to scrawl the hijacker's license plate number in some loose earth before he succumbs and the message is found by Grant and Gail, who happen on the tragedy enroute to the County morgue. While Grant radios Davis to send out a general alarm to locate the car, Matson's body is hauled into the Electronic Researchers building. The electrodes are clamped on his wrists and Maldor orders the generator turned to full power as the restoration machine begins to crackle. Driving to the location where the station wagon has been spotted, Captain America enters the facility as the generator is switched off and Lyman begins administering his serum to the dead man. Dirk and the heavy engage Captain America in the outer office while Maldor and Lyman witness the resurrection of Matson, who stirs to life in the coffin. After leading his hireling to a fire escape, Maldor shoots through the door Captain America is trying to kick down. In desperation, Lyman flings his machine at Maldor, who ducks and fires point-blank at the scientist. Miraculously unscathed by the bullets, Captain America once again finds himself besieged by the heavy wielding a stool. Dirk watches the action and, when Captain America and the heavy tumble behind the generating equipment, throws a knife switch which is followed by a horrible scream piercing the curtain of sparks.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



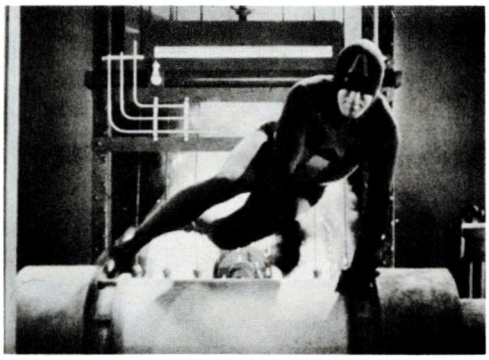






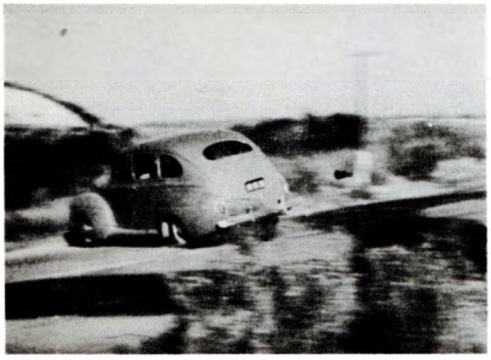
12—HORROR ON THE HIGHWAY 15:34

THE ESCAPE



Captain America leaps from the room and takes Dirk into custody as the heavy is electrocuted amidst the whirling machinery. Unable to make a murder charge stick against Dirk without the testimony of Captain America, whom he cannot conveniently produce, Grant requests the assistance of Doctor Maldor to support Gail's eyewitness identification of Dirk as the man who assisted Matson in abducting Doctor Lyman. Hines, Dirk's attorney, is stupefied when Maldor agrees to cooperate until the curator sends him back to the jail with implicit instructions for the prisoner to follow at that evening's confrontation. Testing Maldor's perceptive powers by presenting one of his operatives in a mask as the suspect, Grant is satisfied when he correctly turns down the man as a prospect. Then Dirk, also wearing a mask, is ushered into the D. A.'s office and is booked for murder when Maldor positively identifies him as one of the kidnappers. Confronted with this evidence, Dirk goes into his act and makes the fantastic claim that Lyman was the Scarab and substantiates his story by claiming that Lyman's house is equipped with many secret compartments the police apparently overlooked in their seemingly thorough search. Certain that Dirk is lying, Grant decides to call his bluff and take him to the mansion and let him prove his allegations. In the semi-darkened library of the Lyman home, Maldor instructs Matson and Pete to inform the victims that their fate is the will of the Scarab before killing them, then he leaves to await the outcome in his car. Grant and Dirk enter the library as Matson steps from behind a drape and levels a gun at them. Dirk's feeling of freedom is short-lived as Matson squeezes the trigger in his direction. Grant, suspecting a trap, dives behind a chair and opens fire. Pete is shot and Matson, stunning Grant by breaking a small table over his head, runs for the waiting car. Making a rapid recovery, Grant is soon in hot pursuit of the big sedan and he and Matson exchange shots as the vehicles careen wildly over twisting mountain roads. Matson finally takes careful aim from his back seat position and shoots out one of Grant's front tires. Grant fights the wheel desperately but the auto veers off an embankment and spirals downward into a deep canyon.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

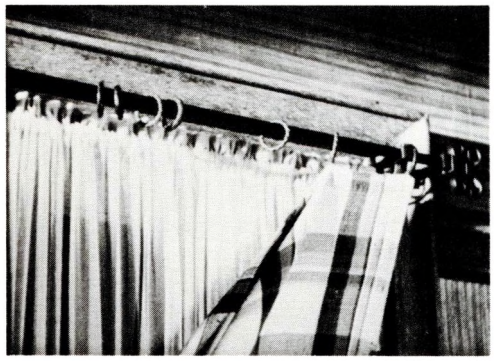


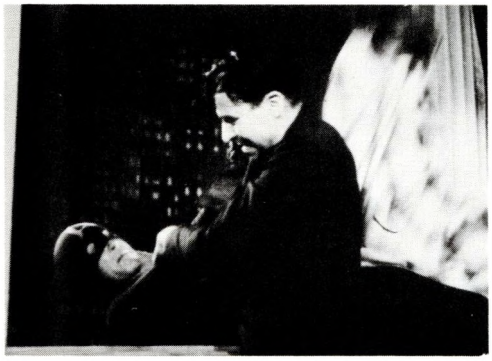
13—SKYSCRAPER PLUNGE 15:33

THE ESCAPE

Realizing he cannot bring his car out of the skid, Grant opens the door and jumps to safety. Back at the office. Grant is relating this latest encounter with the Scarab when Davis answers a radiophone call from railroad president G. F. Hillman, one of the Mayan expedition backers. Speaking from his private car on the Westland Limited, Hillman reports that a clay tablet in his possession had been dropped and broken, revealing half of an etched copper map showing the location of the Temple of Emeralds in the lost city of Zada. Grant arranges police protection for Hillman and then phones Maldor, who has a duplicate stone tablet at the Drummond Museum. When Maldor finds the remaining half of the map in his tablet, he carries a bronze box to the District Attorney's office that reputedly contained the stone and claims it had been looted. When Grant leaves the room to have the box checked for fingerprints, Maldor plants a wire recorder in a bookcase to learn Hillman's undisclosed whereabouts. Kane breaks into the D. A.'s office that night and phones Maldor that Hillman is staying at the Hotel Metropole after playing back the recording. Grant returns to his office and surprises Kane, who flings the recorder out a window before he is killed in the ensuing gunfight. Grant phones a warning but Gordon, dressed as a waiter, is admitted into Hillman's room and pulls a gun from a serving dish, covering Gail, Clancy and Hillman, then opens the door for Matson. At first refusing to open the wall safe containing his segment of the copper map, Hillman relents when Matson orders Gordon to kill Gail and Clancy, who have been tied up in a closet. Grant leaves the elevator and is about to enter the hotel suite when he finds the real waiter's body in a hall closet. He steps in and changes to his costume, then bursts through Hillman's door, knocking down Gordon who was preparing to leave. Hillman seizes the opportunity and turns on Matson, who slugs him with his gun butt as Captain America grapples with Gordon. Slugging Gordon unconscious over a desk, the Captain takes on Matson while Clancy and Gail listen helplessly from the closet. Matson throws his opponent down on an open window ledge and Captain America, grabbing a drape for support, snaps the rungs and falls streetward.

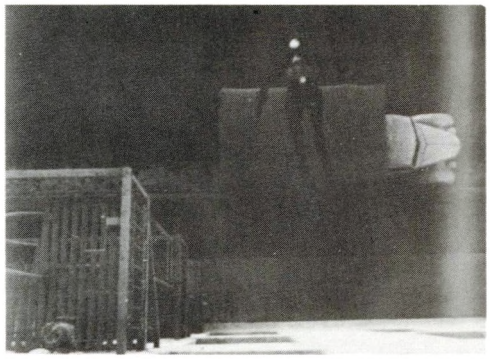
THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





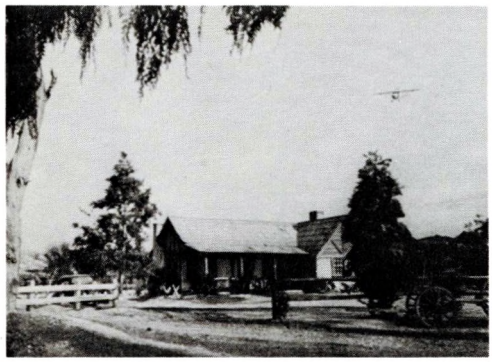
14—THE SCARAB STRIKES 15:32

THE ESCAPE



Captain America's fall is broken when he plunges through the roof of a canvas-covered truck parked at the curb and lands in a pile of laundry bags. Before he can return to the hotel room, Hillman has been spirited away and placed in the care of Walker and Mead at the Watson farm. When Hillman, confronted by the Scarab bearing the two plaque halves, refuses to translate the map, Maldor has him trussed to a chandelier then lashes him severely with a whip across the back. Grant, meantime, decides to force the hand of Ed Graham, a radio repair shop owner with a criminal record, whose fingerprint is found by Davis on a coil in the wire recorder. Hillman gives in to the severe beating as Graham calls Maldor to report an apparently routine check on his shop by the District Attorney. Maldor has barely hung up when Hillman, making a lunge for the wall phone, rips the receiver out as he is struck down by Matson with the whip butt. Reprimanding his henchman for possibly inducing a skull fracture, Maldor has the railroad president stretched out on a couch and heads back to town while Grant, who has had the telephone company tap Graham's line, re-enters the store. Accused of conspiracy, the crooked shopkeeper pulls a gun but Grant lands a fast blow to the chin and leaves for the farm after handcuffing Graham to a steam pipe. Opening a secret panel and kicking a radio on with his foot, Graham tells Gruber to warn the Scarab of the D. A.'s approach. Unable to get through by phone, Gruber reaches Maldor on the car radio and apprises him of the situation. Since Hillman is aware of the Scarab's real identity, Maldor advises Gruber to have his private plane readied and the bomb racks loaded so he can destroy the farmhouse and its dangerous occupant. Walker is about to use the newly-repaired phone when Captain America steps into the doorway only to have the gun knocked from his hand when Mead tosses a vase. The battle progresses as Maldor and Matson make their first run over the house, dropping a bomb that explodes harmlessly in the farmyard. The second pass is equally unsuccessful but, on the third approach with only one missile left, Maldor looks down exultantly as, with Captain America continuing his fight and Hillman remaining in a coma, the farmhouse is blown to fragments.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

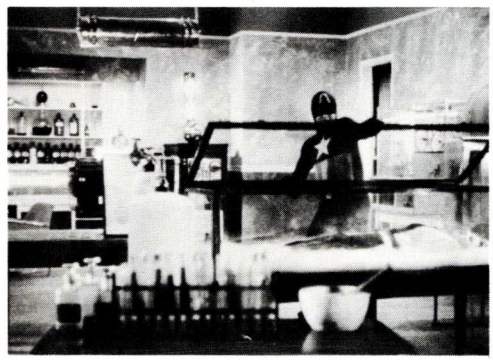


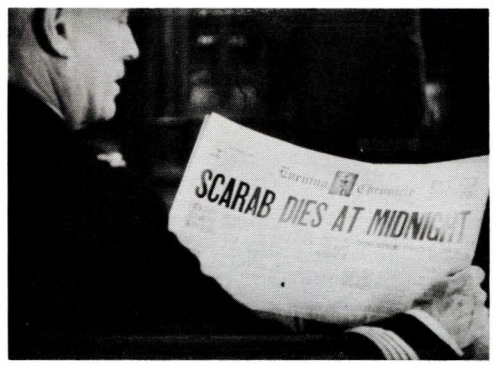
15—THE TOLL OF DOOM 15:33

THE ESCAPE

The first explosions rack the house as Captain America feverishly subdues his assailants, slings Hillman over his shoulder and retreats outdoors before the devastating blast. Since Graham had reported the District Attorney leaving his shop but it was Captain America who arrived at the farm, Maldor concludes they are the same man. His immediate problem, however, is to locate Hillman and, to gain this information, he has Matson abduct Gail. The girl is brought to the Drummond Museum where Maldor discloses that he is the Scarab, then threatens to inject her with a mind-destroying truth serum unless she talks. Gail responds that, while she does not know to which hospital the seriously-injured Hillman has been taken, the D. A. is awaiting the arrival of a brain surgeon, Dr. Rodlam Baracs. Agent 33, representing himself to Grant as Baracs, is told that Hillman is at Crestview Hospital, then requests use of the telephone to call his associate. Momentarily taken aback when Grant offers to dial the number, Baracs completes a hasty conversation with Matson and departs. Since the real surgeon's name is George Thomas, Grant has Davis call the Commissioner to send a raiding party to Crestview while he traces the phone number. Arresting Matson at a rooming house and divesting him of a paper scrap on which is written the name Rodlam Baracs, Grant deciphers it as Maldor Scarab spelled backwards and races to the museum. Tipped off by Booth of the police trap at the hospital, Maldor and Gruber place Gail in a glass case where she will be transformed into a withered mummy. After killing Monk and Booth outside the building, Grant changes to his costume and confronts Maldor, who tries to bargain for his release with Gail's life. Gruber is shot when he appears from a secret panel and Captain America and Maldor clash in a vicious fight. Gruber turns on the mummifying gas before he dies and Gail is almost completely enshrouded by the deadly fumes before Captain America vanquishes Maldor and lifts her to safety. Grant, Gail and Mayor Randolph listen as Commissioner Dryden reads a newspaper account of Captain America's heroics and the midnight death sentence for Maldor as a nearby tower clock chimes the toll of doom for the Scarab.

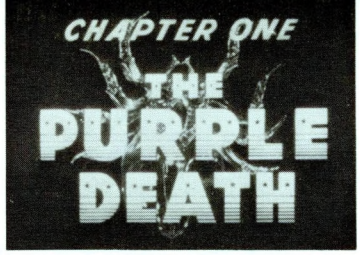
THE MOMENTOUS FINALE

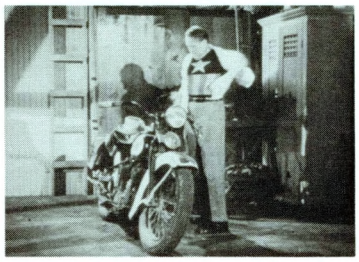


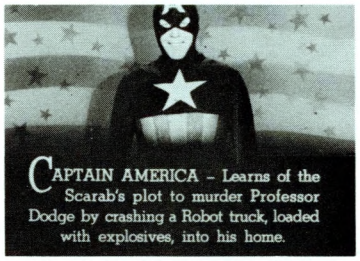
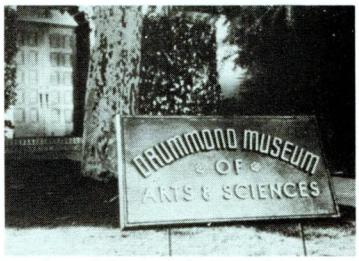
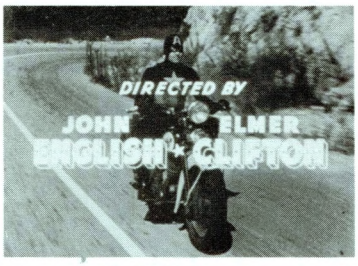
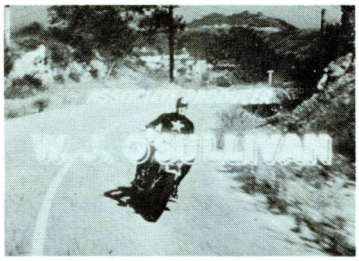
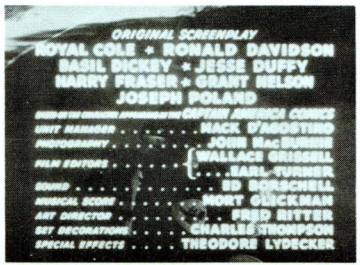


THE INCREDIBLE DEATH-DEFYING EXPLOITS OF A FABULOUS HERO!

CAPTAIN AMERICA







CAPTAIN AMERICA – Learns of the Scarab's plot to murder Professor Dodge by crashing a Robot truck, loaded with explosives, into his home.